

# Ebenezer Emissary



## A New Year's Prayer

Author Unknown

*May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;*

*Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;*

*Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;*

*Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;*

*Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,  
and by making you anxious to be there to help.*

*God's love, peace, hope, and joy to you for the year ahead.*

### ~ OPPORTUNITIES OF THE DAY ~

- 9:00 a.m.** Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship  
*(Various Classrooms)*
- 10:00 a.m.** The Good News Hour *(2 year olds-B16,  
3 year olds-B10, 4&5 year olds-B11)*
- 10:15 a.m.** Worship Gathering – Pastor Jim *(CMC)*  
*Leap into the New Year:  
Everyone Growing and Going  
Special Music: Willow Family*
- 7:00 p.m.** Maranatha ABF New Year's Eve Party  
*(John & Marcia Schutz home)*

**2018 Birthday/Anniversary Calendars** are ready. The ushers will hand them out following the Morning Worship Gathering.

### Ebenezer Communications Card

*Please take a moment to complete the information below. You may place in the offering plate. Thank you!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### I am interested in information on:

- Ebenezer Mennonite Church     Baptism     Membership
- Child dedication     Getting involved in ministry
- Joining a small group     Prayer requests \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**A new ABF class on parenting** will begin for young marrieds and young families next Sunday, January 7, at 9:00 a.m., in the Crossroads Ministry Center. We'll be discussing Wayne Rice's book *Generation to Generation: Practical and Creative Ideas for Raising Kids to Know and Love God*. Pick up a copy and sign up for the class at the back of the CMC. Please contact Pastor Dale or Pastor Jim for details.

**Extra Cookies?** If you have extra cookies or cookie dough left from the holidays, SIM (Serving in Mission) could use more than we brought last year! Please put in the church freezer marked for SIM. We will also need cookie dough in February before we go to Charlotte, North Carolina on Sunday, February 11. Thank you, it is so appreciated. - *Ginny Moser*

**Year-end reports** for 2017 are due on Sunday, January 28. All boards and committees should submit their annual reports to the church office for inclusion in the 2017 Annual Report.

**The Wild Game Committee** is in need of any kind of wild game for the annual Wild Game Event (March 24). If you have some and would like to donate it, call Joe Alt at 419-234-1247.

**Thanks to our Ebenezer family** for thinking of us with the cards, cookies, visits from Lynn & Linda Saunders, the Christmas Carolers: Youth Group, Wednesday Night Grade 1 thru Grade 4 girls, and the Willow family. Also, thanks to the Berean Class for the Christmas party at the Maple Crest Patio Room. Good food, fellowship, and music by Dave Brauen, Mary Glick, Kevin Gratz, Sarah Lehman, Janie Wireman, and Kara Zink. Best Wishes for the New Year! - *Ruth Anna Bixel, Marian Busick, Jo Ann Hilty, Joan Jones, Marilyn Reigle, Judy Rodabaugh, Jan Shields, Dean Sommers, and Bob Town.*

**Dear Church family at Ebenezer Mennonite:** Happy Christmas to you all! May this be a time of great joy as you give thanks again for the wonderful gift of Jesus – and as you look to the year ahead, seeking for ways together to be a blessing to each other and those in your communities. Thank you for your prayers and continued financial support of us. We are eternally grateful for your encouragement of us and seek to be honoring to God and to you as we work with the 'big' family of God around the world. - *With our love and deepest thanks, P. & B.*

### ~ UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ~

- Jan. 12-14** Junior High Ice Camp *(Miracle Camp)*
- Feb. 3-10** Missions Trip with Mission Possible *(Haiti)*
- Feb. 11-17** SIM Work Team *(Charlotte, NC)*
- Feb. 11-24** SIM Building Construction Team *(Charlotte, NC)*
- Feb. 23-25** High School Ice Camp *(Miracle Camp)*
- Feb. 25** Congregational Meeting *(11:30 a.m., CMC)*
- Mar. 24** Wild Game Event *(5:00 p.m., CMC)*
- June 10-16** Middle School 1 *(Grades 5&6, Miracle Camp)*
- June 17-23** Junior High 1 *(Grades 7&8, Miracle Camp)*
- July 8-14** Senior High 2 *(Grades 9-12, Miracle Camp)*
- July 14-21** Young Adult Missions Trip with Be2Live *(Mexico)*
- July 27-29** Family Camp 2018 *(Whitewater Memorial State Park, Indiana)*
- July 29-Aug. 1** Grade School 2&3 *(Grades 2-4, Miracle Camp)*
- July 29-Aug. 4** Grade School 2&3 *(Grades 2-4, Miracle Camp)*

### ~ CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION ~

**Ebenezer Mennonite Church**  
8905 Columbus Grove Road, Bluffton, OH 45817  
**Phone:** 419-358-8588  
**Website:** www.ebenzermennonite.org  
**E-mail:** info@ebenzermennonite.org

---

~ ATTENDANCE AND GIVING ~

---

**Attendance on December 24:**

Christmas Worship Service	(10:15 a.m.)	400
Christmas Eve Service	(4:00 p.m.)	62
Christmas Eve Service	(6:00 p.m.)	220

---

~ PRAYER CONCERNS ~

---

**Pray for the family of Pauline Klingler.** Pauline, mother of Julie Herr, grandmother of Christine Gesler and Ellen (Daniel) Gilfillen, passed away on Saturday, December 23. Funeral services were held on Thursday, December 28, at the Chiles-Laman Funeral Home, Bluffton.

**Please uplift the family of Muriel (Luginbuhl) Ferlager** in prayer. Muriel, the sister of Jim (Vera) Luginbuhl, Nancy (Thomas) Frick, Paul (Penny) Luginbuhl, Martha (Charles) Powell, Ruth Ann (Douglas) Beach, Phil (Debbie) Luginbuhl, Milo (Deb) Luginbuhl, and the late Don (Denise) Luginbuhl, passed away on Sunday, December 24. Services were held Tuesday in Wilmette, Illinois.

---

~ TODAY'S GREETERS ~

---

Crossroads Ministry Center: Mike & Deb Hilty  
Missions Center: Madeline Burghaze, Maria Spallinger

---

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK: JANUARY 1-7

---

(ABF- Adult Bible Fellowship, CMC-Crossroads Ministry Center, FH-Fellowship Hall)

<b>Monday</b>	<b>** Happy New Year – Church Office Closed**</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Game Time (FH) <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Family Supper (FH) <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Men's Prayertime for Families (103) Women's War Room (FH) Worship Team Rehearsal (CMC) <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Adult Devotional & Prayer (103) Children's Ministries (Various Classrooms) Cup of Grace (Church Library) Junior High Dodgeball and Devos (CMC) <b>8:30 p.m.</b> High School Bread of Life Ministries (Church Kitchen) High School Dodgeball (CMC)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b> Men's Prayer Time (Sanctuary) Engage Committee Meeting (103) <b>8:30 p.m.</b> Young Adult Basketball (CMC)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b> Living Faith ABF (Lima Rescue Home)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship (Various Classrooms) <b>10:00 a.m.</b> The Good News Hour (2 year olds-B16, 3 year olds-B10, 4&5 year olds-B11) <b>10:15 a.m.</b> Worship & Communion Service (CMC) <b>11:30 a.m.</b> FaithFull Singles Luncheon (CMC) <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Disciple Singers' Choir (Grades 1-6, 118-119) Junior High & High School Small Groups (Meet in schoolhouse) <b>6:32 p.m.</b> Small Groups (King, Lemley, Luginbuhl) <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Sunday Evening Bible Study (Sanctuary Foyer)

---

~ NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 ~

---

**Infant and Toddler Nurseries:**

Sue Epp, Deb Hilty, Gail Schantz, Tammy Whitlow

---

~ YOUTH NEWS ~

---

**Junior High and Senior High Ice Camps** are now having sign-ups! Junior High is January 12-14 and High School is February 23-25. Cost is \$115 and financial aid is available. Payment is not due until the week before. Contact Pastor David.

**It's almost spring!** Well, not quite, but it is time to start preparing for the spring musical! The Disciple Singers Choir will resume rehearsals on Sunday, January 7, at 6:30 p.m. Children ages Kindergarten through Grade 6 are welcome as we start to prepare for the musical, "Unselfie". If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask Sarah Lehman at 419-957-3607 or Katie Kruse at 419-889-0108. Come join the fun!

**Maranatha ABF New Year's Eve Party:** All are welcome; bring friends, games, and food to share tonight at 7:00 p.m. at John & Marcia Schutz home, 15932 Road 4, Pandora.

**Along with the New Year** comes a new College & Young Adult Bible Fellowship class at 9:00 this morning in the Conference Room (Room 103 by the coffee cafe). We'll be interactive and inter-generational, so you'll wake up fast. I look forward to being your Sunday morning facilitator and teacher. All we need is you! Here's to a great start to 2018! We hope you can join us. Merry Christmas! - *Pastor Jim*

**FaithFull Singles:** The deacons and pastors would like to invite our widows, widowers, and *all* singles age 50 and older to our next gathering scheduled for next Sunday, January 7. A luncheon will be provided following the Worship & Communion Service. Hope to see you there!

---

~ LOOKING FOR A SMALL GROUP IN THE NEW YEAR? ~

---

**Here are some possibilities:**

**Sunday evenings at 6:32 p.m.**

Beginning January 7 at the following locations.

- Pastor Jim & Pat King, 152 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton
- Jim & Marty Lemley, 403 E. Main Street, Pandora
- Milo & Deb Luginbuhl, 4022 E. Bluelick Road, Lima

**Tuesday mornings Men's Group**

Beginning January 9, at 6:30 meet at Bluffton McDonald's "The Pursuit of Holiness" by Jerry Bridges

**Wednesdays "Connections"**

Beginning January 10, from 7:05-8:10 p.m. meet at Bluffton McDonald's "Uncomfortable" by Brett McCracken

*If you have any questions or need to order a book, contact Pastor Jim King at 419-296-0885 or jim.king@ebenezermennonite.org*